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To: Fire Service Members

From: Honeywell First Responder Products (formerly Total Fire Group): Morning Pride; American Firewear; PRO Warrington; Ranger; and Servus.

Subject: Accessories (per NFPA-1851, 2008). Approval and Warranty

The NFPA 1851 (2008 edition), Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Ensembles clearly spells out that the organization (fire department) and the manufacturer of the element have the ultimate responsibility on all things concerning Structural & Proximity PPE Selection, Care and Maintenance.

The standard also states:

4.4.2 *Where the manufacturer's instructions regarding the care or maintenance of the protective ensembles or elements differ from a specific requirement(s) in this standard, the manufacturer's instructions shall be followed for that requirement(s).*

Therefore, we would like to make the following statements to our Fire Service friends:

WARRANTY:

If the organization wishes to attach an accessory item to one of our NFPA 1971 certified elements (helmet, hood, glove, boot, clothing), as long as the accessory has been reviewed, approved and documented by the organization as outlined in our 1851 SOP, the element's warranty will not be void or affected as long as:

- 1) the accessory or its installation does not cause or contribute to the damage claimed under warranty
- 2) the installation of the accessory follows the SOP guidelines

APPROVAL:

Accessories are excluded from the NFPA 1971 standard. Therefore there are no real NFPA guidelines on how to approve one. It is for this reason that we addressed them in the following way which has been copied directly from our 1851 SOP Template (v7.0)

1.4 Aftermarket Modifications and Alterations

Review and Approval of Accessories

The organization will actively review what our members are using as accessories, including any elements not issued by the organization, and also implement a system by which all accessories will be reviewed and authorized. Through the selection process of the organization, develop and maintain an Authorized Product List, which shall also include an Authorized Accessories List so that all members can be kept informed of what they can and cannot use.

After Market Accessory Guidelines

To comply with the requirements of Chapter 4 of the NFPA 1851 Standard, the organization shall follow this procedure for authorizing or denying the use of an accessory. The organization shall ask the manufacturer of the accessory under consideration to provide a letter of approval from the element manufacturer to which the accessory will be attached, and any pertinent test results if applicable.

If the manufacturer of an accessory under consideration cannot provide a letter of approval from the element manufacturer to which the accessory shall be attached, the accessory manufacturer shall provide such information as needed by the organization to conduct the following review.

If the manufacturer of the accessory under consideration cannot provide sufficient information to conduct an adequate review, the organization at its discretion shall either reject the accessory, or seek the advice of the element manufacturer to which the accessory was to be attached.

All Accessories

- Shall not be made from materials that are flammable in nature.
- Shall be made of materials that, during the normal performance of the members duties as defined in the Risk Assessment, shall be expected to not melt to, stick to or otherwise degrade and cause damage to the ensemble or ensemble elements.

Textile Based Accessories

- Products should be manufactured of certified fabrics, trim, hardware, Velcro and thread etc. that meet all the performance requirements of NFPA 1971 (latest revision).
- Products should be manufactured in a manner that is consistent with NFPA 1971 where applicable.
- If the product is to be permanently attached to a garment element it must be installed by a factory trained, verified or non-verified ISP or organization, and done so in a manner that it will not compromise the form, fit, function, safety or certification of the garment.
- If the product is to be attached to any non-garment element it must be done so in a manner that will not compromise the proper form, fit, function, safety or certification of the element.
- If there is ever any doubt as to the safe installation of the product, the organization will consult with the element's manufacturer.

Other Accessories

- Shall meet the appropriate NFPA Standard, if applicable
- If not an NFPA covered product, accessories should be manufactured to a standard that the organization deems acceptable for operation in dangerous and/or hazardous environments as defined in the Risk Assessment.

Installation of Accessories

- Helmet Elements:** The organization shall not permit any holes to be drilled, tapped or otherwise added to any helmet component in any location that is not available from the manufacturer, and that are used by the manufacturer to mount factory accessories or components to the helmet. If the organization approves the installation of factory accessories, and such factory available holes, as would be provided by the manufacturer, need to be added to the organization's helmet shells, the organization will contact the manufacturer to receive the proper training, instructions and documentation before proceeding. The organization shall not allow the addition of stickers, reflective trim or other accessories that would degrade the protective performance of the helmet shell or any other helmet component.
- Garment Elements:** Where applicable, the moisture barrier protection and/or positive closure of any garment element shall not be compromised by installation of an accessory.
- All Elements:** Accessories should be mounted in a location and fashion that the organization approves, and feels will not increase the likelihood of firefighter injury.
- If there is ever any doubt as to the safe installation of the product, the organization shall consult with the element's manufacturer.

Review and Selection of Authorized Accessories

As part of the Risk Assessment and Selection criteria as outlined in Chapter 5 of the NFPA 1851 Standard, the organization shall:

- Undertake an initial review of accessories being used by members of the organization to determine if they meet all criteria as set forth in this SOP.
- Create a list of accessories that members are authorized to possess and use in the performance of their duties for the organization.
- Inform members of which accessories have been authorized and those that have been disallowed.
- Compile documentation in the form of owner's manuals, warranty, product literature, etc. on authorized accessories and make the information available to its members.
- Provide a system within the organization's selection process for members of the organization to submit accessories that they feel are beneficial for consideration, and that they feel should be included on the organization's Authorized Accessory List.
- Periodically conduct additional risk assessment reviews to monitor accessories used by its members.
- Notify members when unauthorized accessories are discovered in use and suspend use of such accessories.
- If an unauthorized accessory that is discovered appears to have merit or benefit, and at the discretion of the organization, allow the review process to be applied to determine whether the accessory will be added to the Authorized Accessory List.
- Update the Authorized Accessory List when products are added or deleted and make members aware of changes in the list.